

# URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CROMPTON.

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# Annual Report

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

for the Urban District of Crompton,  
Lancashire, for the Year ended 31st  
December, 1915.

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AREA OF DISTRICT	...	...	...	2,865 ACRES
POPULATION (CENSUS, 1911)	...	...	...	14,750
BIRTH RATE	...	...	...	20'0
DEATH RATE	...	...	...	12'1
CORRECTED DEATH RATE	...	...	...	14'4
PHTHISIS ...	...	...	...	0'6
ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE...	...	...	...	0'68
DEATH RATE OF CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR...				123'3

**MALCOLM HUTTON, M.A., B.Sc., M.B., D.P.H.,**

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TOWN HALL, SHAW,  
MARCH, 1916.



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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

**Urban Sanitary District of Crompton, Lancashire,**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST, 1915.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE CROMPTON URBAN  
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with the recommendation of the Local Government Board the Annual Report, which I have the honour to submit to you, has been confined to a record of work actually done and an examination of the vital statistics for the year under consideration.

## **Scavenging and Sanitary Inspection of the District.**

Movable ashbins with proper coverings are being substituted for fixed receptacles, and during the year 50 ashpits were abolished as against 13 last year, and 117 ashbins provided as against 25 last year. All ashbins are emptied weekly.

At the end of the year the new Refuse Destructor was brought into use, and now deals with all the refuse of the District except that from the most outlying houses and farms.

During the year the Dairies and Cowsheds, Slaughterhouses, Common Lodging Houses, Schools, Workshops, Bakehouses and Sanitary conveniences at factories have been periodically inspected.

No. of Investigations made in Notifiable Infectious Disease...	184
,, Houses Inspected... ..	470
,, Re-Inspections, &c. ... ..	120
,, Inspections as to Sanitary Conveniences at Factories...	96
,, ,, ,, Workshops and Bakehouses... ..	146
,, ,, ,, Dairies and Cowsheds ... ..	48
,, ,, ,, Slaughterhouses ... ..	90
,, ,, ,, Common Lodging Houses ... ..	8
,, Visits paid to Schools ... ..	20
,, Smoke Observations ... ..	49
,, Miscellaneous Inspections ... ..	14
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Total ... ..	1245

### Particulars of Work done in Compliance with Notices.

Back Doors to Houses provided ... ..	3
Damp Houses rectified ... ..	15
Ventilation of Houses improved ... ..	64
House Roofs repaired ... ..	15
Defective Floors repaired ... ..	26
Other Miscellaneous Improvements to Houses ... ..	25
Dirty Houses cleansed ... ..	5
Houses Overcrowded rectified ... ..	6
Defective Cellars repaired ... ..	5
New Drains provided to Houses ... ..	26
Drains cleansed and repaired ... ..	44
House Drains connected to Sewer ... ..	11
Trapped Slop-water and Surface-water Gullies provided ... ..	47
Lead Slop-pipes provided and repaired ... ..	5
Rain Pipes provided and repaired ... ..	4
Defective Eaves Guttering repaired (houses) ... ..	31
Cellar Drains provided or repaired ... ..	6
Closets repaired (structural) ... ..	43
Water Closets repaired (fittings) ... ..	3
Closets cleansed ... ..	11
New Sanitary Pails provided ... ..	42
Ashpits abolished... ..	50
Ashbins provided... ..	117
Yards repaired ... ..	33
Yards cleansed ... ..	2
Nuisance from Manure Pits ... ..	3
Nuisance from Poultry ... ..	4
Cowsheds limewashed ... ..	2
Miscellaneous ... ..	4
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Total ... ..	652



Preliminary Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	195
Statutory Notices...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Letters	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

### Housing.

During the year 52 new houses have been erected. One tenant was prosecuted for keeping his house in a filthy condition, and was fined 25s. and ordered to abate the nuisance within seven days.

Under the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909, there were issued :—

Preliminary Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Statutory Notices...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Number of Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	450
Representations made to the Council with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Notices to Occupiers to vacate premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Number of Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Houses remedied without Closing Order	...	...	...	...	...	...	113
Houses made habitable after Closing Order	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

The following are the details of premises which have been repaired or otherwise dealt with :—

Situation of Premises.	No. of Houses.
2-10, Golden Street, and 2 houses back Golden Street	6
1-7, Fir Lane, and 1-7, Spring Meadows	10
201-201a, Oldham Road	2
1-11, High Street, and 1-11, Kenworthy Street	12
4, Dale Street	1
17-25, Cowlshaw	7
29-32, Cowlshaw	4
33, 34, 42 to 49, Cowlshaw, and 89-93, High Street.	11
40, Mosshey	1
69-71, Market Street	2
59-63, Market Street, and 4 and 6, Milne Street	5
12-16, Market Street	3
64-70, Market Street	4
17-21, Fir Lane	3
12, Travis Street, and 2, off Travis Street	2
1-17, and 2-34, Duckworth Street	26
Also at 20 houses where minor defects were remedied	20
Total	119

Two houses in Back Golden Street have been abolished as separate dwellings.

Two houses—Nos. 441, Grains Road, and 609, Rochdale Road have been closed.

### **Smoke Observations.**

There were 49 observations, each of half-hour duration, taken during the year, with the following results :—

No black smoke ... ..	30
Under 2 minutes black smoke ...	11
2 minutes and under 4 minutes ...	5
4 minutes and over ... ..	3

Three firms exceeded the smoke limit; in one case, which was a first offence, a legal notice was served. Two firms were prosecuted, and the magistrates made orders for the nuisances to be abated, with costs.

### **Acute Infectious Diseases and Tuberculosis.**

Infectious Disease was both less prevalent and less virulent in 1915 than in 1914. The following table shows the difference :—

#### **SUMMARY OF CASES NOTIFIED IN THE YEARS 1914 AND 1915.**

	1914.	1915
Scarlet Fever ... ..	92	62
Diphtheria ... ..	15	3
Erysipelas ... ..	16	16
Puerperal Fever ... ..	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	3	4
Enteric Fever ... ..	0	2
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	0	1

Cases of Scarlet Fever occurred throughout the year, but there was no well-marked epidemic, and the disease was much less severe in type than in 1914. In last year's Report it was stated that the disease was prevalent at the end of the year (in December, 1914, 16 cases were notified), and the greater number of cases in the early months of 1915 may be regarded as the termination of that epidemic.

The time of occurrence of the cases in 1915 was :—

January	...	9	.....	July	...	...	4
February	...	14	.....	August	...	...	1
March	...	13	.....	September	...	...	4
April	...	4	.....	October	...	...	2
May...	...	4	.....	November	...	...	1
June...	...	0	.....	December	...	...	6

The number of cases and deaths in the last ten years is as follows :—

CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM SCARLET FEVER IN  
CROMPTON, 1906-1915.

Year		Cases		Deaths
1906	...	132	...	6
1907	...	67	...	5
1908	...	93	...	6
1909	...	101	...	0
1910	...	17	...	0
1911	...	25	...	0
1912	...	92	...	0
1913	...	35	...	0
1914	...	92	...	10
1915	...	62	...	2

None of the other Acute Infectious Diseases occurred in sufficient number to require special comment.

The cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year were :—

Pulmonary	...	...	28
Other forms	...	...	20

and the deaths from Tuberculosis were :—

Pulmonary	...	...	9
Other forms	...	...	7

giving a Phthisis death-rate of '6 per 1,000 compared with 1'04 in 1914.

Primary visits were paid to all cases notified, and subsequent visits and disinfection were carried out in the event of death or removal of the patient to a Sanatorium. Eight cases were treated in Sanatoria by the Lancashire Insurance Committee.

PARTICULARS OF WORK DONE IN CONNECTION WITH  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Visits made to Infected Houses...	184
Houses fumigated by Sanitary Staff after Notifiable Disease ...	86
Schools fumigated on account of Scarlet Fever... ..	1
Notices to Schools <i>re</i> Infectious Cases...	59
Number of Bacteriological Investigations	25

Premises at which Infectious cases have occurred were inspected and any defects found were remedied.

CASES REMOVED TO WESTHULME ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Scarlet Fever ... ..	28
Diphtheria ... ..	2
	—
Total ...	30

The Examinations for diagnostic purposes made at the Public Health Laboratory in Manchester were :—

	Positive	Negative	Total
Diphtheria ...	1 .....	9 .....	10
Typhoid Fever..	1 .....	2 .....	3
Tuberculosis ...	3 .....	9 .....	12

**Zymotic Death Rate.**

The seven principal Zymotic Diseases caused 10 deaths, viz.:—

Diphtheria ... ..	1
Diarrhœa ... ..	3
Measles ... ..	3
Scarlet Fever ... ..	2
Enteric Fever ... ..	1

This gives a Zymotic death rate of '68 per 1,000 of the population as against 1'37 in 1914.

**Infantile Mortality.**

The main item of importance was the appointment in the spring of the year of a whole-time Health Visitor. It is satisfactory to record that Crompton anticipated the Notification of Births (Extension) Act, which only became law in the autumn. The Health Visitor, who, as you are aware, had been a part-time official for the last few years, began her whole-time service on the 1st July, and accordingly her report of work done is divided into two parts.



RECORD OF WORK DONE BY HEALTH VISITOR FROM  
JAN. 1ST TO JUNE 30TH, 1916.

First visits	...	...	...	171
Second ,,	...	...	...	127
Third ,,	...	...	...	89
				<hr/>
Total	...			387

At the first visits 113 children were breast-fed  
1 child was breast and bottle-fed  
37 children were bottle-fed

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF CHILDREN BORN.

Healthy ...	...	...	...	126
Small ...	...	...	...	22
Delicate...	...	...	...	3
Premature	...	...	...	6
Still-born	...	...	...	14
				<hr/>
Total	...			171

When the Health Visitor began full-time work there was the prospect of the occurrence of Infantile Diarrhœa in considerable amount, and I advised her for the first three months of her work to devote herself mainly to its prevention. This she did until the end of September, and since then she has extended her work to include visits to children in their second and third years. Ultimately she will include in her visits children in their fourth and fifth years, so that every child will have the benefit of her supervision until the time when it enters school.

FROM JULY 1ST TO DEC. 31ST.

First visits	...	...	...	144
Second year visits	...	...	...	110
Third ,,	..	..	...	121

At first visits 109 children were breast-fed  
4 children were breast and bottle-fed  
18 children were bottle-fed

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF CHILDREN ON FIRST VISIT.

Healthy...	...	...	...	103
Small ...	...	...	...	20
Delicate...	...	...	...	5
Premature	...	...	...	5
Still-born	...	...	...	11
				<hr/>
Total	...			144

The total number of Births notified during the year was 317.

The number of Visits paid since July 1st was 1,688, and the total for the year was 2,075.

The number of Deaths of children under 1 year was 36. This gives a rate per 1,000 born of 123·3, which, though slightly less than last year, is still far from satisfactory. Of the 36 deaths, 12 occurred during the first week after birth, and 15 during the first month after birth. This proportion is higher than that in the country as a whole, and, taken in conjunction with the fact that there were 25 still-births registered during the year, it tends to show that anti-natal causes have much to do with the high infantile mortality. With a view to enabling the Health Visitor to get in touch with expectant mothers, notices have been sent to the doctors and midwives informing them that the Health Visitor will attend to any cases in which they consider that her services will be of benefit.

### Vital Statistics of the District.

In preparing the Vital Statistics for the year 1915 the main difficulty has been the estimation of the population. It may be regarded as certain that if there had not been enlistment on such a large scale the death-rate would have been lower than it is, for, of course, those enlisted have been the healthiest lives of the community. What effect, if any, enlistment has had on the birth-rate it is impossible to say. It is satisfactory to record, however, that the Vital Statistics compare favourably with those of 1914, and also compare more favourably with the figures for the whole country than they did a year ago. Tables are appended which show the difference between the last two years.

#### VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES AND CROMPTON, 1914-1915.

	Annual Rate per 1,000 Living		Deaths under 1 year to 1000 Births
	Births	Deaths	
England and Wales, 1914 ...	23·6	13·9	105
„ „ 1915 ...	21·9	15·1	110
Crompton, 1914 ... ..	19·4	15·16	127·9
„ 1915 ... ..	20	14·4	123·3

## VITAL STATISTICS IN CROMPTON, 1914-1915.

	1914	1915
BIRTH RATE ... ..	19'4	20'0
DEATH RATE ... ..	12'15	12'1
NETT DEATH RATE...	15'16	14'4
PHTHISIS DEATH RATE ... ..	1'04	0'6
ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE ... ..	1'37	0'68
DEATH RATE OF CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR...	127'9	123'3

In the last Annual Report attention was drawn to the combination of a low birth-rate and high Infantile death-rate, and the seriousness thereof. The same features are noticeable in the present report, though in a slightly less marked degree, and still possess the same significance.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

MALCOLM HUTTON.

Town Hall, Crompton,  
March, 1916.

